

REMARKS

Claims 8-14 stand pending in this application. Applicant herein amends claims 8, 12 and 14, cancels claims 9 and 10, and adds new claim 15. Entry is respectfully requested. Upon entry of these amendments, claims 8 and 11-15 are pending in the application for examination.

The amendments do not add new matter. Support for the amendments to claim 8 is from canceled claims 9 and 10 and from paragraphs 0010 and 0024 of the application. Similarly, claim 15 is supported by the claims and specification as originally filed (inter alia see paragraphs 0010, 0024 and 0027 of the published application).

Claim Objections

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the objection to claims 8-14 based on the following. First, the term “manhole access cover” is not found anywhere in the application as filed. The term found in the specification and claims is “manhole cover.” Second, Applicant, as is well known, may be his/her own lexicographer and here has selected the term “manhole cover” which does not appear contradictory or repugnant to a common understanding of that term even as applied to a gas turbine engine combustion chamber. Third, the suggested term, “combustion chamber panel wall,” in Applicant’s opinion appears much broader than is suitable for the manhole cover of the present invention. Such panel may be extremely large or unsuitably small for purposes of providing appropriately sized access as does a manhole cover. Fourth, the use of the term “combustion chamber panel wall” is not found in the application as filed and Applicant has a concern that adding it would be inappropriate as it would broaden the scope of what is being claimed and would constitute new matter.

For these reasons, separately or in any combination, Applicant believes this objection should be withdrawn, and consequently has not made the suggested modification.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC 102

Claims 8-14 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Froemming et al., USPN 5,782,294.

Per the above section, incorporated by reference into this section, Applicant respectfully disputes the alleged analogy between a combustion chamber panel wall and the manhole cover of the present invention.

Applicant notes that the first full paragraph on page 6 of the Office action appears confusing and not relevant to the previously pending claims 10 and 11, and thus, also not relevant to the as-amended claim 8. Particularly, the last phrase “where the directed flow is across the outer surface of the cooling chamber of the combustion chamber wall” does not appear to comport with either Froemming’s Figure 2 or the terminology used either in the present application or in Froemming (see Froemming’s col. 4, lines 52-64).

Further, it is noted that all of the depicted embodiments described in Froemming utilize an impingement sheet 16, whose third apertures 45 may pass air or other cooling fluid into the area between the sheet 16 and the inner wall 12, which comprise first apertures 34 through which the air or other cooling fluid may pass into the interior of the combustion chamber where the core gas flows (see FIG. 2).

Thus, it appears that at least in part the rejections are not appropriate and should be withdrawn.

Further, the claims as amended herein more clearly distinguish the present invention from Froemming. As may be perceived through basic analysis of structure and related function, the claims as now presented clarify the distinction from the impingement-type structure of Froemming. For example, in claim 8 is provided the limitation, supported by paragraph 0010 of the application (based on paragraph numbering of the publication).

For the above reasons, singly or in any combination, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC 103

Claims 8-11 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Babcock et al., GB626,249 in view of Albrecht et al, USPN 6,415,724.

Applicant believes that these rejections are rendered moot in view of the claim amendments. Applicant further notes that Babcock et al. teach an alternative approach to use of an access door, namely it provides an air flow (such as through circumferentially spaced holes or ports 49) spaced from the door or cover 45, rather than a flow within a combustion chamber wall (see Babcock et al, page 3, left column, lines 19-59 and related figures). Accordingly, it appears that Babcock et al. teach away from the approach utilized in the present invention as claimed, and to use it in a rejection of the amended claims would be to deviate unacceptably from its intended purpose.

Similarly, Albrecht et al. does not teach or suggest linking its cooling system within its door to a cooling channel or system within the combustion chamber wall.

Thus, neither reference appears to contemplate the present invention as claimed.

In view of this, the further use of these references in combination with Halila et al., for claims 12, 13 and 14, appears inappropriate. It also is noted that Halila particularly does not meet the limitations of the fixing element as now claimed in claim 15, in part based on the feature that the fixing element is disposed against the combustion chamber interior. This feature is supported at least implicitly in the specification (see, for example, paragraph 0027) and explicitly in Figure 2. In Halila the U-shaped support (80) is disposed exteriorly and cannot meet this nor other functional features of the fixing element as now claimed.

For the above reasons, singly or in any combination, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper, including the fees specified in 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 (c), 1.17(a)(1) and 1.20(d), or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

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